

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AVAILABILITY

Issued: June 12, 2009

**In the Matter of the Wisconsin Power and Light Company
Application for a Certificate of Need
for the Bent Tree Wind Project
Large Wind Energy Conversion System
and
Associated 161 kV High Voltage Transmission Line**

PUC Docket No. ET6657/CN-07-1425

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Environmental Report (ER) for the Bent Tree Wind Project Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) and associated 161 kV High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) proposed for Freeborn County, Minnesota, has been completed and is available for review by the public. The ER addresses potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed LWECS project and alternatives. Copies of the ER and other relevant documents are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19665>

Paper copies may be requested from the Office of Energy Security staff listed at the end of this notice.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project as proposed is an LWECS of approximately 200 MW that would consist of up to 121 wind turbines. The turbines could be the Vestas V82 1.65 MW units mounted on freestanding tubular steel towers supported by cast-in-place concrete foundations. The towers would be 80 meters (262.5 feet) in height. The rotor diameter would be 82 meters (269 feet), resulting in a maximum overall height of 121 meters (397 feet) when one blade is in the vertical position. Pad mount transformers at each tower would step up the voltage from 575 V to 34.5 kV. Electricity generated from the turbines would be brought to the project substation using a series of buried electrical cables. The project substation would then step up the voltage from 34.5 kV to 161 kV in order to transmit the electricity approximately 18 miles to the point of interconnection at the ITC Hayward Substation, located east of Albert Lea.

Proposed Site Location

The proposed project site is located in Freeborn County, approximately four miles northwest of the city of Albert Lea. The four townships encompassing the Project Area include: Hartland, Manchester, Bath and Bancroft. The total project site area including the wind plant and land easements covers approximately 32,000 acres. The turbines and access roads will permanently displace approximately 121 acres.

Associated Actions

The Certificate of Need Application (CN) is for 200 Megawatts. This portion of the proposed Bent Tree Wind Project is part of a larger (400 MW) Bent Tree site permit application. See PUC Docket No. ET6656/WS-08-573. At this time there has not been an application for a Certificate of Need for the remainder of the project.

PUC CERTIFICATE OF NEED REVIEW PROCESS

The Project is a “large energy facility” as defined in Minnesota Statute 216B.2421, subp. 2 and a Certificate of Need from the Public Utilities Commission is required for such a project under Minnesota Statute 216B.243. On June 27, 2008, Wisconsin Power and Light Company filed a Certificate of Need application for the Bent Tree Wind Project. On August 27, 2008, the PUC issued an Order accepting the application as substantially complete as of July 25, 2008.

A public hearing on the CN will be held on June 29, 2009, in Albert Lea. A separate hearing notice will be provided with the detailed information. Under state law, the PUC CN proceeding is the only time at which the “no-build” alternative and the size, type, and timing of a new generating facility will be considered. These items will not be addressed in the PUC Site Permit process.

Project Contacts and Information

For more information about the process, the project or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact Larry Hartman (651-296-5089 or larry.hartman@state.mn.us) Office of Energy Security, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, and ask for the Office of Energy Security.